Incoming Telegram Department of State

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UNCLASSIFIED F790004-1092

Control: 14262
Rec'd: June 29, 1954
5:1[illegible] a.m.

Action ARA

Info SS G SP C UNA R P UOC SCS OLI IOP OCB CIA

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1138, June 28, 9 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUN 29 1954

PRIORITY

At meeting at 5 p.m. with Military Junta (Embassy telegram 1137 June 28), I told Colonels Diaz, Sanchez and Monzon I was gravely disturbed by reports which had reached me that Communist leader Victor Manuel Gutierrez, after being arrested had been released by Colonel Jose Luis Morales Melgar, new Chief of Guardia Civil. I said I was equally disturbed by report that Communist Carlos Manuel Pellecer, had also been allowed to escape and had taken asylum in Chilean Embassy. I said that if reports re Gutierrez and Pellecer were true, I could not (repeat not) feel much confidence in Colonel Morales. It is possible that in confession following change of government several Communists may have escaped. It is rumored seven have taken asylum in Chilean Embassy.

Junta members denied any knowledge of escapes and Colonel Monzon pointed out he had only been Minister of Interior for a few hours (he added he had issued order this afternoon for arrest all known Communist leaders).

PEURIFOY

MAM:JG/12

Note: Passed Army, Navy, Air and OSD 6/29/54 7:30 a.m. EJH

Mr. Leddy and Mr. Fisher (MID) notified 7:20 a.m., 6-29-54 TEM

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/30/77
PER [illegible] OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 140332

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